

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

American Citizens' Information Hour

Every Tuesday at 4:00pm at the Consular Section
except on U.S. and local holidays. Appointments are not necessary.

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Consular Section Visits reach 11 of 21 Provinces in 2015

In September and October Consular officers conducted visits to several provinces. During these trips they meet with Volunteer Wardens, local provincial officials, police and hospital staff. They also visit Peace Corps volunteers and see local projects. In addition, they speak with college students, about educational opportunities in the US & the visa application process.

Appointment of New Ambassador to Mongolia

Jennifer Zimdahl Galt is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Minister Counselor rank, Public Diplomacy cone. She most recently served as Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou, China, where she had the privilege of leading and mentoring a talented team of nearly 500.

Ms. Galt's previous postings overseas have included Belgrade, Taipei with the American Institute in Taiwan, Mumbai, Beijing, Shanghai, and the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels. Ms. Galt holds Master's degrees from National Defense University and from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), as well as a Bachelor's degree in political science, history and languages from Colorado College in her home state of Colorado. She is fluent in Mandarin and French, and also speaks Italian, Spanish and Serbian. Ms. Galt is married to the writer Fritz Galt and has a daughter and a son. Ambassador Galt arrived in September.





SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PASSPORT AWARENESS MONTH

Apply early for your passport!



We encourage U.S. citizens to submit passport applications well ahead of planned travel. There has been increasingly strong demand for U.S. passports in recent years and in 2014 we issued over 14 million passport books and cards. Whether you are renewing a passport or applying for the first time, the passport application process can be completed without added stress if done ahead of time.

If you are unsure when to apply or renew, our "**Pro Tips**" can help you decide. We value your travel plans and are dedicated to helping you through the passport application process.

Pro Tips for Your U.S. Passport:

Apply during the **off-peak season** from September through December to help ensure timely processing of your passport.

Our **busiest months** are January through August when passport demand is extremely high and when applications may take longer to process.

Many countries require U.S. passports to have **at least 6 months of validity** and some require two blank pages for entry. Review the **entry/exit requirements** for your destination now.

Look out for passport expiration dates because they can differ. Many parents forget or don't realize that a child's passport is valid for 5 years unlike adult passports which are valid for 10 years.

Children under 16 years old must apply in person. See their requirements and separate requirements for **16 and 17 year olds**.

Important Change to your Passport

U.S. Department of State

After December 31, 2015 there will be no more extra visa pages added to U.S. passports.

Instead, **52-page passport books** will be issued at no extra cost to U.S. citizens applying from outside the United States.

Renew your passport early to make sure you have enough blank pages for visa stamps from other countries. Some require two blank pages for entry and exit.

See travel.state.gov for more information on **entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements**.

State Absentee Voting Registration

The Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) is a reference guide for absentee voting regulations, laws, deadlines and procedures across all 55 States and U.S. territories. It is the primary source of information for citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* regarding procedures for registering to vote, requesting a ballot and voting in a specific State or territory of legal residence. The VAG is regularly updated to accommodate State changes. A list of changes (errata sheet) is available to include changes since the most recent printed version was published.

<http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag>

Annual Warden Meeting

The Consular ACS unit held an annual meeting on September 24th with the Embassy's volunteer Wardens. Wardens are private American citizen residents in Mongolia who volunteer to assist consular sections in disaster preparedness and alerting Americans to emergency situations. This includes passing messages in case of emergencies or routine messages regarding American Citizen Services. The Embassy is still seeking volunteers for various Provinces/ Aimags. Contact us at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov if interested.

Travel Warnings and Alerts



Consular Chief Tom Venner (center right) speaking with several U.S. Embassy volunteer Wardens at an Annual Meeting. Topics included emergency planning, STEP registration of Americans overseas and local conditions in Mongolia.

Upcoming Embassy Holidays

November 11 Wednesdays U.S.
November 12 Monday Mongolian
November 26 Thursday U.S.
December 25 Friday U.S.

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services

U.S. Embassy
Denver Street #3
11th Micro District
Ulaanbaatar 14190 Mongolia

Tel: 976-7007-6001

Fax: 976-7007-6014

After-hours emergency number: 9911-4168

E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov

World Wide Caution Warning

Philippines	October 21
Iraq	October 19
Burkina Faso	October 9
Nepal	October 8
Chad	October 2
Somalia	October 1

Alert

Hurricane Patricia October 24
South Pacific Tropical
Cyclone Season October 14
2015-2016
Burma Travel Alert October 7

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to the State Department <http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html>



The Department of State has released a new iPhone App, Smart Traveler, that invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more. Information for the app comes from content that is also posted on the [State Department Web-site](http://StateDepartmentWeb-site). Please visit those websites for even more information on international travel, foreign policy, and the work of the U.S. Department of State. Download the app from the [iTunes store](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id1011111111) and/or from the [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.state.smarttraveler).